



C-gram



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NUMBER 02-2007

From the Commissioner

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr.

Since the first C-Gram, there has been a lot of new things happen within the department that will be outlined here. The City has approved my request to increase the apparatus funding line from 1 million to 1.4 million. With this increase, we were able to purchase 2 new rear mounted Ladder Trucks, a huge improvement to the apparatus fleet. The bid for the 2 ladder trucks has already been completed and Emergency-1 was the winning bidder with an estimated delivery date of October. Additionally, a new E-One Pumper has arrived (assigned to Engine-29) as well as the new Rescue-1 that we ordered from Pierce. These will also be a big improvement to our aged fleet. I sent two of our Apparatus Specification Committee members to the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis last month to see what's new in the Fire Apparatus industry. Hopefully, this will improve our specification development process in the future. We also have applied for two tiller ladder trucks under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. Awards from this grant program will be made in late 2007.



ENGINE 29



Engine 29 is a 2006 Emergency-One Cyclone II Pumper with a Cummings 425 horsepower diesel engine and a single stage Hale Q-Flo Pump capable of discharging 1,250 gallons per minute.

The onboard 500 gallon water tank allows for quick attack from various hose lays which are stored in modern designed hose beds. These hose storage beds are ergonomically built lower on the truck to provide easier access for the firefighters. The cost of this unit was \$400,000.

Engine 29 works out of the Chestnut Hill Avenue firehouse in Brighton along with Ladder 11 and the District 11 Chief. Its primary response area is Allston and Brighton and is first due at Boston College.

RESCUE 1



Rescue 1 is a 2006 Pierce Quantum cab Heavy Rescue Unit. It has many special features such as a 35KW generator with pre-connected 100' hydraulic lines for the "Jaws of Life", a 9,000 pound pulling capacity winch that can be attached to any side of the unit.

Numerous power tools, water rescue gear along with devices for jacking up trains and buses are carried on board. The cost of this unit was \$500,000.

Rescue 1 works out of the Purchase Street firehouse downtown with the Division 1 Chief, Engine 10 and Tower-Ladder 3. Its response area is half the city and it goes to all fires, haz mat incidents and tunnel/trench collapse incidents among others in Division 1.

Photos by Bill Noonan, FIU K7

From the Chief of Department

Kevin P. MacCurtain

Safety First

All too often in the fire service we repeat the same mistakes. We fail to learn the lessons of the past. The job that we do is fraught with danger. Firefighter safety is everyone's responsibility. As part of a continuous Lessons Learned Program, I have asked the Division of Safety to reinstitute the Safety Bulletin. Chief Michael Feeley of the Safety Division has just drawn up the first Safety Bulletin. This bulletin depicts the tragic accident that occurred March 24 in Chicago, where one Firefighter was killed in a rollover. Similar accidents have occurred all over the country.

We sometimes feel invincible, perhaps because of the dangerous job that we do every day. Safety does not just begin and end with the Chief Officer directing operations at an incident. Your Safety begins with you. We each share a personal responsibility for our own safety.

As Chief Feeley so aptly stated in the first Safety bulletin.
“Don't bet your life that this can't happen on the Boston Fire Department.”

We believe that by explicitly identifying persistent challenges, firefighters will be better attuned to them and more able to address them in their planning and training programs. The intent is to adopt these lessons to better support behavioral change.

The appeal of learning from experience—both to avoid duplicating mistakes and to be able to repeat successes—is widely perceived. It is our intent to identify, document, and disseminate lessons from incidents in hopes that we will be able to learn from past experience and improve future response.

We urge all firefighters to submit lessons learned thru their chain of command to the Safety Chief on their work group. The division of safety will continue to send out these important lessons that we cannot afford to forget.



Uniform Update

Baseball Caps The department is in the process of purchasing baseball caps for all members. Each member will be issued one cap. The cap will have a large B on it with smaller letters F and D inside the B. There will be an American flag on the side.

Shorts The department is purchasing shorts for the members in the field. Each member will receive two sets of shorts.

Once these items are ready for distribution, an order will come out with the guidelines for wearing them.



The smoke house on Moon Island that has served the department for the past 50 or so years will be coming down soon. The current drill class will be the final users. Elsewhere in this *Cgram* is a drawing of the new burn building.

C-gram is the Boston Fire Commissioner's Official Newsletter. Comments to Cgram.bfd@cityofboston.gov

Fire Academy Update: In the last C-gram, April was listed as the start date for construction of the new burn building. Construction will actually begin in August.

We are in the last round of negotiating a new Flashover Trainer like the trainer at FDNY and Stow. Hopefully, that will be completed soon and we can announce it formally and set a date for delivery.

Engine 51 Fire House improvements: The Budget Office is committing a total of \$1 million in the capital budget for Engine 51 for the next two years. It is for a new “boiler and to address all critical repairs.” Cash flow is \$500K in FY08 and \$500K in FY09. With a little proper planning, we should be able to plan this so that the company only has to be out of the house once - starting in the last half of FY08 and finishing up the beginning of FY09. (or whatever works best in terms of operations and \$) Repairs that can be done with them in quarters could be done at any time during that period.

COBECC Drive Final Numbers: Thank you to all who participated in the 2006 City of Boston Employees Charitable Campaign (COBECC) for making this the BFD's most successful COBECC drive. We raised \$16,372.00 earning this Department an award for “The Most significant Increase in Donor Participation.” DFC Richard Magee and Joanne Allain did an outstanding job running the campaign for our Department this year!

New Rear Mounted Aerial Purchase: The City received a bid from E-One for two ladder trucks in the amount of \$674,031 per unit, for a total cost of \$1,348,062. Delivery is currently scheduled for October of this year.

Information Technology Improvements: New PC's have been purchased for field locations and are in the process of being installed in all firehouses throughout the City.

This will complete all of the work necessary to bring the department fully back on-line after the network virus problems that had been encountered this spring. New PC's have also been installed in select Headquarters facilities and the department is also upgrading its anti-virus software and selected servers in its effort to fully address this matter.

The IT Department is presently testing a fax machine that will copy, scan and fax documents over the network. Funds are in the FY08 budget to procure this equipment and a deployment schedule will be developed to have this equipment installed this summer.

Fire Alarm Security Project: The Fire Alarm Security Project which includes a new surveillance system, fencing, doors and vehicle access controls is progressing rapidly. The new surveillance system has been installed and is operating.

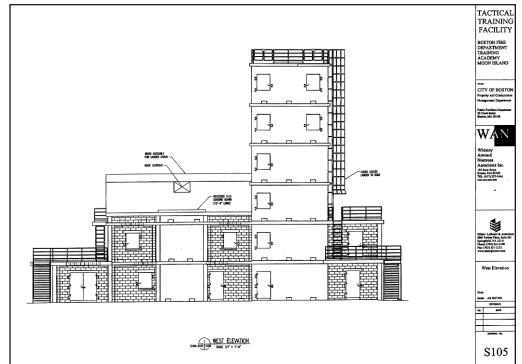
The new high security fence has been purchased for the sides and rear of the property. A fence installation specification and bid is being prepared for installation of the fence and mow strip this summer.

Two entry doors have been replaced with more secure doors and each entry equipped with a card identifier.

Several options for vehicle access controls and security improvements to the front of Fire Alarm are being finalized for discussion and comments from various planning and neighborhood groups this spring. Once conceptual plans are approved funding will be pursued for final design and construction.

Apparatus Replacement Plan: The Budget Office and the Department have agreed upon a long term Apparatus Replacement Plan that will evenly replace our apparatus over time to result in an average age of our apparatus fleet at 9 – 10 years. Currently, our fleet of Fire Engines is 11 years old and our Ladder Trucks are 14 years old on average. For the 2008 budget, we are authorized 3 million dollars for the purchase of apparatus and 2.5 million for 2009 and 2010. This is a huge improvement in the way we plan and purchase apparatus and will result in safer, more reliable apparatus for this department.

MBTA Radio System Update: On Monday morning, March 19, the Fire Alarm Office received a call from the MBTA reporting a fire in the Park St. MBTA Station. Box 33-1262 was struck and Fire Alarm announced that



channel BFD 4 would be the fireground frequency. Fireground communications were loud and clear between the companies operating above ground and below in the station. This marked the first real-life test of the new system. The recent disaster drill conducted by the MBTA at Andrew Station also utilized channel BFD 4 as the fireground and once again the new system worked flawlessly. Until further notice all companies that have been assigned a VHF portable radio must still carry it when operating in a subway station or tunnel. Companies are encouraged to use channels BFD 1 and BFD 4 anytime they respond into the subway stations or tunnels so that real-life use can identify any problems before the system is officially turned over to the BFD.

State Board recognizes Fire Alarm: Boston Fire Alarm's status as a Secondary PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) for 911 changed to an Alternate Primary PSAP. I recently attended the SETB (State Emergency Telecommunications Board) meeting at the State PD headquarters in Framingham with Boston Police Deputy Superintendent Ken Fong where this matter was voted on by the Board. The vote was unanimous in our favor and it included a \$1.7 million State procurement to pay for the upcoming upgrade replacement of 911 equipment at Fire Alarm that includes 6 Fire positions, 5 Police/EMS overflow positions on the operations floor and 10 positions in the basement Police/EMS back-up center.

Boston Fire, Police and EMS have worked together on this project cooperatively and successfully and it will bring greater service to the citizens of Boston without the expected costs to our budget.

Three Grants Received: The department will be receiving a \$82,200 equipment grant from the state which is being used to purchase three Amkus tools, a thermal imaging camera, six cold water immersion suits and 42 PASS devices. It is expected that this equipment will be able to be ordered in the upcoming weeks once the State Fire Marshal's Office has the funds remitted to the City.

We have received a Fire Prevention grant under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. The amount of the grant award will be \$23,150. The City will match the grant with a 20% match of \$5,788 for a total grant program of \$28,938. The grant will provide for the purchase and installation of 1,000 carbon monoxide detectors for Boston's seniors simultaneously with our present Senior Smoke Detector Installation Program. Additionally, it includes an education program, designed to educate the City's seniors on the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to respond if their carbon monoxide detector should go off, as the dept. presently does with smoke detectors. In order to accomplish this, the department will develop a carbon monoxide fact sheet or pamphlet that is easy for the seniors to read and refer to. The department will also develop a web page that their families or caregivers can reference easily when they are not physically with them, but on the phone.

The department also has been notified that it was awarded a State Fire Prevention grant for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) in the amount of \$14,038.91.

Summer Youth Programs in the City: Boston ROCKs (Recreational Opportunities for City Kids) will offer summer recreational opportunities city wide for kids of all ages.

Check out <http://www.bostonyouthzone.com/summer/> for more information. You can search for activities by neighborhood, age group and many other search options. Need to find fun things for your children to do this summer? Check out the youth zone website.



Developing cultural awareness in today's youth

Firefighter Dorian Jenkins of Ladder 6 and Firefighter Matt Paul of Engine 18 were each presented appreciation plaques before two Boston Public middle schools, the Donald MacKay School of East Boston and the Rafael Hernandez School of Roxbury.

Both firefighters participated in a youth cultural diversity workshop with these schools earlier this year.

Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser, Jr. commented "We are very excited about participating in diversity programs for young people. We want to get the message out to these kids that a career in public safety is a rewarding career path for all men and women regardless of ethnicity.